

CR 00-029
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Entry of the foregoing proposed amendments and reconsideration of this application is requested. By this proposed amendment, FIG. 6 of the drawings, and claims 1, 4, 9, and 12 have been further amended to more specifically set forth the invention. Amendments to claims 1-16 were previously submitted via facsimile on February 6, 2004 and are re-presented herein. Claims 17-20 have been canceled herein. Claims 1-16 remain in the application.

The applicant is submitting these further proposed amendments to the claims to clarify the applicant's invention. Claim 1 and 9 have been amended to more specifically state the electrophoretic deposition of a product formed in situ, as a result of the application of a voltage to the binder solution containing metal ions. The applicant asserts that support for the amendments can be found on page 8, lines 16-18 of the originally presented specification where it is stated as an example that magnesium nitrate is provided (as the dissolved metal ions) in the binder solution, and as a result of the application of the voltage to an immersed substrate in the binder solution, magnesium hydroxide (the product formed in situ) is formed on the surface of the immersed substrate by electrophoretic deposition. The applicant believes that this amendment to claim 1 and 9 further differentiates the claims over the cited prior art.

CR 00-029
PATENT

An additional minor amendment to claim 4 has been made herein to include a closed parenthesis after the formula named. Further, additional minor amendments have been made to claim 12 to comport with the amendments to claim 9. Claims 17-20 have been canceled herein.

The applicant is submitting herewith an amendment to FIG. 6. In the third step as illustrated, the applicant is proposing an amendment to delete the term "solution" and insert therefore "material". The third step in the process subsequent to the amendment should read "Depositing the binder material on a surface of the substrate". It is believed that this amendment is in keeping with the amendments to claims 1 and 9 proposed herein. At the appropriate time, formal drawings will be submitted.

No amendment made herein was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly states; rather any amendment not so identified may be considered as directed *inter alia* to clarification of the structure and/or function of the invention and Applicants' best mode for practicing the same. Additionally, no amendment made herein was presented for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references. Furthermore, no election to pursue a particular line of argument was made herein at the expense of precluding or otherwise impeding Applicants from raising alternative lines of argument later during prosecution. Applicants' failure to affirmatively raise specific

CR 00-029
PATENT

arguments is not intended to be construed as an admission to any particular point raised by the Examiner.

The Applicant believes that the subject application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited by the Applicant. In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's attorney or agent at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection.

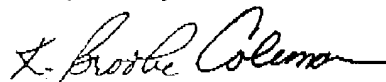
SUMMARY: Reconsideration is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks it is believed that the application, including claims 1-16, is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein, including any extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502117.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Respectfully submitted,



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